



Dear Friends,

I'm proud to represent Illinois' 11th District in Washington. A big part of my job is to ensure the 11th District gets its fair share of federal resources and to advocate for important local projects that improve our communities and create jobs.

In this newsletter, you'll find the results of just some of the projects I have been working on in Congress. My staff and I are working to ensure that everyone in the 11th District has an opportunity to succeed, and that our local communities have the resources they need to provide services and security for their residents.

In the coming year, I will be working to add new projects to the list of 11th District communities who have received aid and grants from the federal government. This money is critical to ensuring that our local communities are well cared for and supported.

If you have any questions about the work I am doing in Congress, or if I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Join Congressman Weller at a
Town Hall Meeting in LeRoy**

**LEROY CITY HALL
5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.**

THURSDAY APRIL 15, 2004

To Contact Congressman Jerry Weller

Contact Numbers:

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Weller Staff Traveling Office Hours:

Third Monday of Every Month

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Normal City Hall

100 Phoenix Ave.

Normal, IL

Third Monday of Every Month

12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

LeRoy City Hall

US Hwy 150 between Chestnut and East Streets

LeRoy, IL

**For more information on the news
from Congress or to email
Congressman Weller, log on to:
www.house.gov/weller**



**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

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M.C.

Prstd Std

Report on Federal Funding and Local Issues From Congressman Jerry Weller

11th District of Illinois



**Working to
Secure Federal
Funds and to
Create Jobs in
Illinois' 11th
District**

Normal Multimodal

*Downs Water Treatment
Facility*

Danvers Fire Department

*McLean County Emergency
Communications System*

Bloomington IRS Center

*U.S. Trade Representative
Visits 11th District*

Federal Funding for Normal Multimodal Project

Congressman Jerry Weller recently announced that the Normal Multimodal Project has been approved for \$750,000 in federal funds. The funds are part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Federal Spending Bill. These funds were secured by Weller and 15th District Congressman Tim Johnson.

The \$750,000 approved by the House for the Normal Multimodal project is an important step in the redevelopment of downtown Normal. The facility will serve as an important hub for transportation and commerce in Central Illinois.

The town of Normal, working in close collaboration with Illinois State University (ISU),

has developed a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of its downtown, which is adjacent to the ISU campus. The centerpiece of the plan is a Multimodal Transportation Center located in the central business district. The Multimodal Center will provide a focus for multiple transportation modes including: the city bus system, inner-city and charter buses, Amtrak service to Chicago and St. Louis, airport shuttles, taxis, park and ride facilities, and pedestrian connections to the downtown and ISU.

The multimodal project will be a centerpiece to the renewal of downtown Normal and a job generator for Central Illinois.

Federal Funding For Downs Water Treatment Facility

Congressman Weller also recently announced that the Village of Downs will receive \$325,000 for a new wastewater treatment project as part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Federal Spending Package.

This \$325,000 appropriation will help Downs to complete the design of the wastewater collection infrastructure.

The Village of Downs has a unique solution to its wastewater treatment needs. Working in conjunction with the City of Bloomington, Downs is planning a new wastewater treatment system which would utilize the capacity of a new Bloomington wastewater treatment facility. The Bloomington facility will be large enough to handle the needs of the Village of Downs and

will mean that a separate facility will not have to be created for the Village.

In January of 2002, the State awarded up to \$1,700,000 in grant funding to aid and assist the Village of Downs' efforts to construct a sanitary waste system. The total project cost is estimated at \$5.6 million. The federal funds secured by Weller in Congress will help to lessen the cost to local taxpayers for this important project.

“The Village of Downs has a unique solution to its wastewater needs. I am proud to support this effort in Washington.”
-Congressman Jerry Weller



Federal Grant for Danvers Fire Department

The Danvers Fire Department will receive \$39,389 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Assistance to Firefighter's Program (FIRE Act). The FIRE Act program, inaugurated in 2001, is designed to assist local fire departments in purchasing new equipment and improving training and safety for firefighters. Congressman Jerry Weller has been a leading advocate for the program and co-sponsored the FIRE Act legislation creating the program.

FIRE Act grants help local fire agencies such as the Danvers Fire Department purchase needed equipment and ensure that our local fire fighters have the best training and safety devices that we can provide for them.

With Weller's support, FIRE Act funding increased to \$750 million in FY2004. The program provides a 90-10 federal funding match to local communities and is an important part of our homeland security agenda.



Congressman Weller presents a \$39,389 federal FIRE Act grant to firefighters in Danvers.

Federal Funding To Upgrade McLean County Emergency Communications System

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has awarded \$6 million to the joint application of St. Clair and McLean Counties that will allow the counties to purchase Motorola StarCom21 radio and paging communications equipment for all of its first responder agencies. The StarCom21 system is the same emergency radio communication system selected by the Illinois State Police and their statewide emergency radio system. Illinois first responders will now be able to demonstrate interoperability emergency communications along the Interstate 55 corridor between the City of Chicago and McLean and St. Clair counties. The McLean County portion of this grant is \$2.8 million.

These funds to upgrade the communications capability for our first responders and police will help to ensure the public safety of the community,

while helping to ease the cost of these systems to the local taxpayer.

The St. Clair and McLean application was awarded the maximum amount to develop these systems. The grant recipients will receive funds as part of a joint program between DHS and the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to develop demonstration projects that will use equipment and technology to increase interoperability among the fire service, law enforcement, and emergency medical service communities.

Weller, along with other members of the Illinois Congressional delegation, helped direct these funds to McClean County.



Working to Bring Jobs to the 11th District

Working to Make Bloomington Facility a National IRS Center

Congressman Weller recently wrote a letter to IRS Commissioner Mark Everson, asking him to consider merging three IRS regional distribution sites into one site located at an existing facility in Bloomington, Illinois. The Bloomington site, along with sites in California and Virginia, are currently under review in the IRS competitive sourcing program. The review will determine which if any of the three sites should remain open or if the IRS should contract with private firms to distribute tax forms and tax materials. The explosive growth of online tax filing and computer generated tax returns has reduced the demand for IRS publications.

Congressman Weller believes that the Bloomington center is best equipped to make this transition and that our local workers can meet the task. Bloomington is a cross roads for the nation and the facility's central location will allow it to serve the entire nation in the most cost effective way.

Weller visited to the Bloomington facility to discuss with workers and facility managers the need to maintain the IRS facility in Bloomington. The IRS is expected to decide the fate of the three regional distribution centers by summer.



U.S. Trade Representative Comes to the 11th District

U.S. Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick, a member of President Bush's cabinet, visited the 11th District this winter to discussion the impact of trade on Illinois Agriculture and manufacturing. At a roundtable discussion with leaders for Illinois farming communities held in Morris, Zoellick stressed the importance of opening foreign markets up to Illinois farm products and manufactured goods. By expanding U.S. access to the international market place and by reducing tariffs on U.S. products and farm goods, Zoellick predicted that farmers would see higher prices and that Illinois workers would see growth in the labor market.



Weller listens to a presentation by U.S. Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick to Illinois farm groups on opening overseas markets to Illinois farm products.